

Eastcote Residents' Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 27th September 2017

Venue Elsie Fischer Room at St Lawrence Church

Present – Alison Holtorp (Chairman), Irene Groom (Secretary), Alison Dungworth, Alison Akerman, Deesha Chadha, Carolyn Derecki, David Harper, Ian Murray, Malcolm Penny, Arthur Plummer, Jackie Redrup, Karen Spink, Chris Groom (President), Councillor Catherine Dann, Dev Chadha, Frank Gaughan, Melody Gordon.

1. Apologies for Absence - Keith Barnard, Chris Hankin, Councillors Teji Barnes, Eddy Lavery, Nick Denys, Becky Haggar and Michael White.

2. Amendments/Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of the meeting on 30th August 2017 were approved by a show of hands, after a small amendment – Item 6.3 should read “£45 for hire etc”

3. Matters arising from the 30th August

- Cracked pavements – Cllr EL reports that the cracked slabs in the new paving area in Eastcote have been replaced. AH to follow up as it has now been reported that only some of the cracked slabs have been replaced. **ACTION:- AH**

4. Festive Season -

- AH reports that she does not have any specific costs or response regarding request for the Council to fund the tree for this year. Cllr CD said she and her fellow Cllrs had been working to get Council sponsorship for the decorated Christmas Tree and will continue to follow up with AH. A vote of thanks was given to the Cllrs for their considerable help and support with this. (post meeting – Council have agreed to pay for the Christmas Tree this year).
- AH has spoken to some traders and has monetary promises from some to assist with the costs of running a Festive Window Competition. The Committee felt it was worth trying to pursue organizing this community activity.

5. New Resident Issues

- None

6. New funding requests

- None

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Chairman's Report - AH

- New LED street lights – some people like them but some people have problems with light intruding into their homes. The advice is to email the Contact Centre with any problems and then contact ERA if not resolved.
- Paving in the High Street: AH
 - forwarded a letter from a resident asking that textured paving for the visually impaired be retained/replaced when new paving laid.
 - asked about misplaced ramp associated with parking bay outside library
 - noted elegant solution of extending paving at raised crossing to bus stop to prevent cars parking – better than the 'KEEP CLEAR' asked for.
- Town Centre Improvements
 - Wrote to the Council thanking them for organising the two consultation meetings in the Library and expressing the opinion that the printed leaflet was too small to see all the features and required interpretation. (Post meeting has asked ND to organise for the larger plans and information on rain gardens to be displayed at the Open Forum) **ACTION :- ND**
 - Asked for more information on rain gardens and forwarded to committee and road stewards.
 - Asked that look at narrowing of road outside library as concerned traffic turning right into Deane Croft will cause traffic to back up down shopping centre.
 - Will write about Up lighting on the bridge sign as concerned may make adjacent paving artificially darker. **ACTION:- AH**
 - It was noted that the consultation document did not invite constructive comment on the proposed improvements.

7.2 Conservation

- No report.

7.3 Finance – AD

The following amounts were approved by a show of hands:

- £36.90 for the refreshments for the Road Stewards meeting.
- £201.60 for Public Liability Insurance.

7.4 HARA (Hillingdon Alliance of Residents Associations) – IG

- No report – the next meeting is not until the 20th November 2017.

7.5 Health and Community Voice

- No report – we still need someone to represent ERA at CV Meetings. CV minutes and notes distributed to members.

7.6 Newsletter

- The Newsletter is at the printers. 2,600 copies being printed but AH has asked for an extra 100 that she can distribute to the shops. **ACTION:- AP**
- AP has asked for extra help with the Newsletter and it was suggested that we ask at the Open Forum if there is anyone who is prepared to help him. DH has said that he will help as and when he can.

7.7 Parks Report – KB

Both Eastcote House Gardens and Long Meadow have received awards in this years' London and Hillingdon in Bloom competition.

Eastcote House Gardens

- Park of the year – Gold Award & category winner for Park of the Year means we are the best park (up to 10 acres) in London
- It's your neighbourhood – Level 5 Outstanding [equivalent of gold]
- Our community – Gold

Walled garden - Gold Award. First time entered this category

Long Meadow - Large conservation area – Gold

AH to write to FEHG and Green spaces team with our congratulations.

ACTION:- AH

7.8 Planning – JR

The planning report for September will be distributed with the minutes. JR reported the following:-

2 applications were mentioned at last month's meeting that required further investigation:-

- 15 North View – The Eastcote Conservation Panel and ERA wrote a joint email of objection. The application has been refused.
- 48A Elm Avenue - The Eastcote Conservation Panel and ERA both wrote to object. The application has been refused.

Also

- 20 Abbotsbury Gardens – concerns have been expressed about the application for this property to be turned into an HMO (House Multiple Occupancy) which it, in fact, has already been for some time.

7.9 SNT/Police – CH

- The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Metropolitan Police held a public forum about the plans for Public Access at the Civic Centre on 13 September. CD and CH both attended what was a very heated meeting. MOPAC made it clear that the closure of Uxbridge Station was largely driven by financial considerations; Hillingdon Council made strong statement about wanting to see the Uxbridge site retained.
- After the forum, CH slightly revised the draft response from ERA to the consultation and submitted it on 16 September. There is still time for personal responses to the consultation.
- IM reports that Harrow is also to close all of their police stations except the one in South Harrow, it is due to financial constraints.
- A suggestion has been made that Boroughs may combine – i.e. Harrow, Barnet and Brent, Hillingdon, Hounslow and Ealing leading to even more pressure for us in North Hillingdon.

7.10 Road Stewards – AA

- 26 people attended the meeting held Wed 6th September 7-9pm at The Stables. Talk by Paul Busby about the Volunteer program monitoring the River Pinn outfalls for pollution.

- AA has reminded all RS's that the Newsletter is due out soon.

7.11 Transport - IM

- There are changes at Senior Management levels on all London Underground lines to provide for a leaner, flatter structure. Two managers are now in overall charge of the Metropolitan Line, one for Operations (the technical and physical running of the trains) and the other for Functions (passenger/"customer" interface). The Control Room will move from Baker Street to a new centre at Hammersmith in 2018 responsible for the movements of all sub surface lines (i.e. Met., District, Circle etc.)
- Harrow on the Hill Station – a meeting between TfL and representatives of Harrow Council is scheduled for 6 November to present and discuss preliminary plans for the upgrade of this rail and bus station prior to submission of formal planning applications.
- Trains are being sent away on a scheduled basis for adaptation for "auto running" when the new signalling system is available in or about 2022. A suitably qualified staff member will always be present on all trains once these changes take place.
- The drainage and track work being done in the Finchley Road to Baker Street tunnel is on schedule.
- The Piccadilly Line service on the Acton Town to Rayners Lane/Uxbridge branch will be reduced to three trains per hour during the Autumn leaf fall to allow for speed restrictions in an attempt to avoid or minimise the problems experienced in the autumn of 2016. This emergency timetable is likely to remain until Christmas.

8. A.O.B

- **OPEN FORUM** – this is being held on Tuesday 24th October at St. Thomas More Church at 7.30pm. The same format as last year.
- **WEB MASTER** – we have a new Web Master and AH asked if the Committee would be prepared to change the week of our committee meetings so that he would be able to attend. No definite decision was made.
- **ZEBRA CROSSING** – Crossing in Field End Road is now fully operational but there is a lot of mess to be cleared up. Cllr CD and KS are contacting the Council with a view to clearing up. **ACTION: Cllr CD/KS**
- **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REMEMBERANCE 2017** – there is no information at the moment regarding this celebration. Post Meeting note – date set for Sunday 12th November.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THERE IS NO OCTOBER MEETING ON THE 25TH AS IT HAS BEEN REPLACED BY THE OPEN FORUM ON THE 24TH

The next meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY 29th November 2017 in Elsie Fischer Room, St. Lawrence Church, starting at 7.30pm. Reports and apologies to Irene Groom.